

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A network-connected camera comprising:

a retrieval message sending unit configured to
send a retrieval message that contains the position
5 information of the camera itself over a network at
regular intervals;

a return message sending unit configured to, upon
detecting a retrieval message sent over the network,
send a return message containing the position
10 information of the camera itself over the network; and

a position information recording unit configured
to, upon detecting a retrieval message and a return
message sent over the network, record the position
information contained in the retrieval message and the
15 return message.

2. A network-connected camera according to
claim 1, wherein the position information recording
unit changes the recorded contents on the basis of
a detected return message sent over the network in
20 response to the retrieval message sent over the network
at regular intervals by the retrieval message sending
unit.

3. A network-connected camera according to
claim 1, wherein the position information recording
25 unit, upon detecting a new return message sent over
the network in response to the retrieval message sent
over the network at regular intervals by the retrieval

message sending unit, adds position information contained in the new return message to its recorded contents.

4. A network-connected camera according to
5 claim 1, wherein, when a return message for the retrieval message sent over the network at regular intervals by the retrieval message sending unit is not detected over a predetermined number of times, the position information recording unit erases the position
10 information contained in that return information and recorded when it was once detected.

5. A network-connected camera according to claim 1, further comprising an information sending unit configured to, upon receiving a request for multi-image
15 display over the network, send over the network information that allows the multi-image display on the basis of the recorded contents of the position information recording unit.

6. A network-connected camera according to
20 claim 5, wherein the information sending unit sends over the network first information that specifies a layout for the multi-image display and second information that specifies assignment of images captured by cameras connected to the network to divided
25 display areas on a display screen indicated by the layout specified by the first information.

7. A network-connected camera according to

claim 6, wherein, upon detecting information that
selects cameras which provide images to be displayed on
the divided display areas indicated by the layout and
is sent over the network, the information sending unit
5 sends over the network information that specifies
cameras selected on the basis of that select
information.

8. An image display method comprising:

obtaining over a network first information that
10 specifies a layout for multi-image display and second
information that specifies a number of cameras which
provides images which are to be displayed on divided
display areas indicated by the layout specified by the
first information;

15 dividing a display screen into a number of display
areas on the basis of the layout specified by the first
information;

obtaining image signals from the cameras specified
by the second information over the network; and

20 displaying the image signals obtained from the
cameras over the network on the divided display areas,
respectively, of the display screen.